

Growing An Inclusive Ministry To Children With Disability



Notes for the person facilitating this training are written in blue. It's important to read through all exercises and all blue text instructions when preparing to facilitate this training.

All videos can be previewed prior to the training session but be aware that this course has a two-month limited access. So the training needs to be completed within two months from the date of purchase.

The timing of each exercise is a guide only. For example, a larger group may need more time in sharing ideas from multiple small groups after a brainstorming exercise.

Allocate two hours for this training, with a twenty minute break after Exercise #4 (around the 75 minute mark). If possible, provide tea and coffee and some light refreshments.

Set Up:

- Set up chairs around tables (ideally 6-7 per table)
- Cover tables with paper
- Place coloured markers on each table
- Place wrapped lollies on tables as treats (optional)

Need:

- Data projector
- Sound system

Introduction:

- Welcome people.
- Indicate timing of breaks and essential information for all in attendance (toilet locations, emergency exits...).
- Begin by committing the time to God in prayer.
- Encourage everyone to introduce themselves to those in their group if appropriate.

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Welcome people and open in prayer.

EXERCISE #1 (10 minutes, group exercise)

1. When you hear the word 'disability' what comes to mind?
2. Read each passage out loud. How does each passage address how we are to think and act when it comes to children living with disability?

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

~Psalm 139:14

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

~2 Corinthians 5:16-17

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable...

~1 Corinthians 12:21-22

Video #1: HUMAN DIGNITY

All are made in the image of God.

We believe that every person is a unique individual, lovingly created in the image of God. We believe that people's disabilities are an aspect of their lives, but do not define them.

~Jesus Club website (Australian)

- Every child is vulnerable because of their age.
- Vulnerability can increase for children with disabilities.

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

~1 Corinthians 9:22

Stand in the shoes of another.

Seek to understand what life might be like for them.

Then do whatever it takes, so that they may be saved.

EXERCISE #2 (10 minutes, group exercise, use the paper on the tables to write on)

1. As a group, list all the ways your church has sought to care for children living with disability.
2. What have you heard that other churches do? Add these to your list.
3. As a group, list all the things a church could do to care for parents raising children with disabilities.

Encourage each group to share one or two reflections from Exercise #2 (5 minutes).

Video #2: SEEK TO UNDERSTAND

Parents Of A Child With Disability:

- heightened level of sustained stress
- sleep deprived
- time poor (extra medical appointments)
- learning a new skill (signing, therapy)

First Impressions:

- body language
- tone of voice
- posture towards them

Practical Steps:

- One-to-one conversation
- Enrolment form

Parents know their children best.

It is good to remember the saying, 'If you know a child with ASD, then you know one child with ASD.'

-Kathy Hoopmann Note: ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Questions for parents:
 - What do you do at home that is helpful for your child?
 - What do the teachers at school say is helpful for your child?
 - What is unhelpful for your child?
- Questions for child:
 - What helps you to feel calm?
 - What is unhelpful for you?

Holiday Club Strategy:

- Specialised Team
- Phone call to parents
- Meet your leader
- Walk through building
- Routine pictures
- Calm room with helpful equipment